

From: EAA7110@aol.com@inetgw
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/20/02 8:14am
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

To Whom It May Concern at the Dept. of Justice:

The carping against Bill Gates and Microsoft comes loudest from a couple of ego-maniacs who do the same and would do even more with their own companies if they could. Bill Gates and Microsoft have done what they had to do to succeed in that marketplace against the other sharks in the water.

I support some degree of government regulation of business practices. For the benefit of everyone, these powerful people need to play by some rules. But Microsoft's success has had a beneficial effect in terms of establishing a common platform for most computing. Without that, the benefits of computer technology would not be as widespread as they are, and it would be extremely expensive for businesses and consumers to accomplish anything across various platforms. Even the fact that there is just one other semi-popular browser besides Internet Explorer has ballooned development costs at the company I work for, where we are making training materials available via the Internet. We'd be so much further along if we didn't have to test and fix everything we did so it would run on two different browsers, and our programs could be so much more engaging if we didn't have to develop to the lowest common denominator of both browsers (which denominator, by the way, is quite a bit lower on the non-Microsoft browser).

Please don't create chaos in the computer industry just so the second-richest megalomaniac in the world can satisfy his selfish desire to be number one. Things were going better for consumers and the economy before the senators from the home states of Microsoft's competitors started skewing the picture by political means. Microsoft's competitors are no more altruistic or deserving than Microsoft. Give us all a break.

Eric Anderson
7110 E. CR 700 N.
Brownsburg, IN 46112